

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200 Washington, DC 20555-0001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. 03-002 January 3, 2003

NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REVIEW STANDARD FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS SEEKING POWER UPRATES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a draft review standard that will be used to review applications to increase the generating capacity of a nuclear power plant by more than seven percent.

The process of increasing the licensed generating capacity of a commercial nuclear power plant is called a "power uprate." Power uprates above 7 percent are considered extended power uprates that usually require significant modifications to major plant equipment. The NRC has approved extended power uprates as high as 20 percent.

The "Review Standard for Extended Power Uprates (RS-001)" will serve as a tool to facilitate and expedite staff review of extended power uprate applications by providing detailed references to various documents containing specific information related to the areas of review. The document also will make available to licensees information to help them prepare applications by identifying the topics required for the staff's review and the guidance the staff will use when reviewing these topics. By following the review standard, a licensee could minimize the staff's need for requests for additional information and thereby improve the efficiency of the review.

Additional details about the Draft Review Standard are described in a *Federal Register* notice that will be published shortly.

The document will be available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, and on the NRC's web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/power-uprates.html.

Written comments should be sent within 90 days of publication of the *Federal Register* notice to Mohammed A. Shuaibi, Senior Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.